

FURTHER ADDITIONS TO THE FLORA OF THE MALAY PENINSULA.

(1) *HYPTIS CAPITATA*, Jacquin in *Collectanea I* (1786) 102.

Pycnanthemum decurrens, Blanco, in *Flor. Filip. Ed.* 3, II (1878) 251, t. 294.

A stout annual herb, erect, 4 feet tall, hairy, green, or purplish especially at the nodes and in the upper side of the leaf-mid-veins, with four-angled stem. Leaves lanceolate, toothed, about 4 inches long, and 1 inch broad. Flowers numerous, crowded into subglobose heads, on long peduncles, peduncles solitary, axillary, four-angled, about 3.5 inches; heads 0.5 to 0.7 inch long. Calyx pale green. Corolla white, dotted pink in the tube, inferior lip yellowish white. Stamens exsert; filaments white; anthers darkish; pollen yellow. Style linear, white, exsert.

This plant is quite common in waste places along the Cluny Road, in the vicinity of the Old Arboretum of Singapore, and has been observed there for the last five years. The plant agrees well with plate given in Blanco's *Flora*, l.c.

Distribution—A plant of Mexican origin now found as a weed in the Marianne and Caroline Islands, the Philippines, Formosa, Amboina, Java, Borneo and India.

The key given in Ridley's *Flora II* (1923) 645, for the identification of *Hyptis* spp. occurring in the peninsula may be modified to include the above species thus:—

A. flowers few in racemose cymes, corolla violet; herb strongly aromatic, pubescent with spreading hairs; leaves ovate, serrulate. *H. suaveolens*, Poir.

AA. flowers numerous in axillary globose or subglobose heads, corolla white; herb little or not aromatic, more or less pubescent with non-spreading hairs; leaves ovate-oblong to lanceolate, serrate:

(a.) Peduncles about 0.5 inch long, more or less as long as the flower heads. *H. brevipes*, Poir.

(aa.) Peduncles 3.5 inches long, about three or more times as long as the flower heads. *H. capitata*, Jacq.

(2) *RIVINIA HUMILIS*, Linn. *Spec. Plant.* (1753) 121; H. Walter in *Engl. Pflanzenreich IV* 83 (1909) 102, fig. 30; Sims in *Bot Mag.* (1816) t. 1781.

Perennial herb or shrub, woody below, up to 3.5 feet tall, glabrous or pubescent. Leaves alternate, occasionally sub-opposite, entire, ovate or broadly elliptic, apex long acuminate, base rounded or obtuse, sometimes slightly acute or sub-cordate, 1 to 4 inches long, 1 to 2 inches broad; petiole more or less hairy or tomentose, roundish, with a little groove above, 1 to 1.5 inch long. Flowers bisexual in subterminal or axillary racemes, little longer or shorter than the leaves.

Perianth of a single series, 4 cleft, white or pinkish, 1/12 inch long, increases and turns green in fruit. Stamens as many as perianth segments; filaments white, persisting green on fruits. Ovary monocarpellary, white, style one, short with capitate, white stigma. Fruit a globose red berry, with fleshy pericarp; seed hard, black.

Varieties occurring here *orientalis* (Moq.) Walt. and *canescens*, L.

As early as the year 1890 (or 1896?) Ridley collected a specimen of this species which was then noted by him as an escape from the Singapore Botanical Gardens. This species is still found persisting as weed in the Garden's hedges and is seen flowering and fruiting throughout the year. The other records for the Peninsula are:—

Malacca at Malacca Hill (Ridley, Dec. 1899). Singapore, Yo Chu Kang (Ridley, 1902); Paya Goyang (Hassan, May, 1905).

Singapore, (Mayer, no. 884 fide Walter l.c.) [Mayer's name is not included in the list of Malayan Plant Collectors made by Burkill and published in Garden's Bulletin IV (1927) nos. 4 and 5].

Distribution—Native of tropical and subtropical America, but now pantropic.

Rivina (also spelt as *Rivinia*) is a Linnean genus of the *Phytolocoaceae*—a family not included in Ridley's *Flora*.

For the purpose of tracing the family of this plant, the following synopsis may be used as an Addendum to the synopsis of the families given by Ridley in the *Flora*, I (1922) xxxi:

CXa—*Phytoloccaceae*—Herbs or shrubs, woody at base. Perianth of a single series, 4-cleft. Leaves alternate, entire. Ovary of one carpel. Style one, capitate stigma. Fruit a berry.

C. X. FURTADO.

OCIMUM, LINN. IN THE MALAY PENINSULA.

In the peninsula all *Ocimum* species are cultivated plants, but frequently one comes across them as escapes and weeds in the settled areas. They are grown chiefly for the purposes of worship or for their medicinal value, or again for the purpose of scenting cooked preparations. *O. sanctum*, L., is sacred to the Hindu deities Krishna and Vishnu, and is frequently cultivated by the Hindus from northern India near their dwellings, in places where they usually say their prayers. Some believe that the mere presence of the *Ocimum* round about the houses keep away mosquitoes. An infusion of its leaves is used, either alone or mixed with that of other plants, internally to cure the minor disorders of the respiratory system and also irregular